



Repairing Existing Public Land by Adding Necessary Trees (REPLANT) Act of 2020

**Senators Tom Udall (N.M.), Rob Portman (Ohio), and Debbie Stabenow (Mich.)
Representatives Jimmy Panetta (Calif.-20), Mike Simpson (Idaho-2), Kim Schrier (Wash.-8) and
Doug LaMalfa (Calif.-1)**

Forests across America are in desperate need of reforestation efforts, and the REPLANT Act provides the necessary additional funding to prioritize the backlog of at least 1.3 million acres in need of planting within U.S. forestland while creating nearly 49,000 jobs over the next ten years.

Reforestation needs caused by natural disturbances such as wildfires, droughts, insects, and diseases are primarily funded through the Reforestation Trust Fund. Congress created the Reforestation Trust Fund in 1980 to be funded using tariffs on designated wood products and authorized to receive no more than \$30 million annually.

To better address the current backlog of 1.3 million acres of forestland in need of planting, as well as continued annual reforestation needs, the REPLANT Act removes the current \$30 million funding cap to allow all tariffs collected on the specified wood products to be deposited into the Reforestation Trust Fund – a ten-year average of \$123 million per year. The bill does not change the list of products or increase the tariffs and instead uses existing funds that are already being collected.

The REPLANT Act also requires the US Forest Service (USFS) to prioritize and reduce the backlog of 1.3 million forestland acres in need of reforestation within ten years and encourages partnerships to address reforestation needs.

Estimates show that the REPLANT Act will help reforest 410,000 acres of forests, or 123 million trees, per year, for a total of 4.1 million acres, or 1.23 billion trees, over ten years. That's the equivalent of sequestering 75 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, or avoiding the use of 8.5 billion gallons of gasoline, in a decade.

Not only does reforestation improve our environment by sequestering carbon dioxide, improving soil health, and protecting wildlife and their habitats, but it also improves our economy by creating jobs. A report completed by American Forests found that the REPLANT Act would create nearly 49,000 jobs over the next ten years, or 4,883 jobs per year, by investing in reforestation activities on our federal forestlands.

This legislation is supported by American Forests, Trust for Public Land, BPC Action, The Forest Stewards Guild, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, The Longleaf Alliance, Evangelical Environmental Network, and Green Forests Work.